



A

PRACTICAL TREATISE

OF CULTIVATING

L U C E R N,

Vol. I. Vol. II. Vol. III.



செய்து கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள்

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A
PRACTICAL TREATISE
OF CULTIVATING
LUCERN:

Containing the
METHODS as by EXPERIENCE
are found to SUCCEED.

INCLUDING
The PRACTICE used in several Parts of FRANCE.

By BARTHOLOMEW ROCQUE.



L O N D O N:

Printed for, and sold by the Author, at his House at *Walham Green*

~~By John Rocque, in the Strand;~~

And by

J. DIXWELL, in St. *Martin's-Lane*, near CHARING-CROSS.

MDCCLXI.

[Price One Shilling.]





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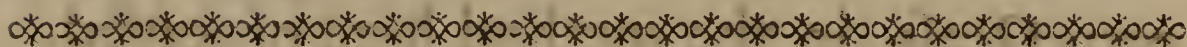
PRACTICAL TREATISE

On CULTIVATING

LUCERN GRASS.

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the HONOURABLE SOCIETY for the
Encouragement of ARTS and SCIENCES.



GENTLEMEN,

Y^{OUR} generous encouragement
of all useful and ingenious im-
provements of every kind, for
the publick benefit, is so obvious, that no
man, who has the least regard for man-
kind in general, or love for his country in
particular, but would be glad to have it

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in his power to forward so laudable a design. And as no improvement whatsoever, that is useful, is excluded the honour of your protection, I having it in my power to contribute my mite, do readily throw it into the common stock ; hoping it will be acceptable to you, and advantageous to as many as will be at the pains to try the experiment, of cultivating Lucern Grass, in the method here proposed.

I HAVE not pretended to philosophise on the subject ; that not being my province : but only given a detail of such matters of fact, as have come to my knowledge, either by experience or observation. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

&c.

B. R.

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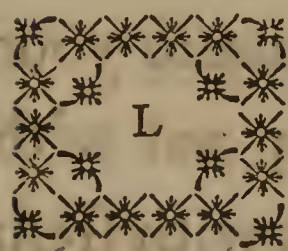
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PRACTICAL TREATISE

ON CULTIVATING

LUCERN GRASS.



 LUCERN Grass will grow on any sort of land if water does not stand on it in winter to rot the roots.

The strongest land is to be preferred ; and the deeper it is for the roots to run down in, the better will be your crop.

Your

Your land must be well ploughed and harrowed, and cleaned from all sorts of weeds, as you do for barley : and the stronger the land is, the more ploughings and harrowings it will require to mellow and sweeten it.

When you have got your land clear of weeds, and thoroughly mellowed and sweetened, by often ploughing and harrowing; you must, in fine weather, sow your Lucern seed, broad cast, (not in drills) about fourteen pounds to an acre.

It is likewise necessary to manure your land before the last ploughing; not with old rotten stuff, as is usual, but with fresh stable dung that has been thrown up in a hill three or four weeks to ferment; and when it is in full fermentation, you are to lay

whereby the roots will run down the sooner out of the reach of dry weather ; and if the foil, that is turned up, be ever so four, the future ploughings, harrowings, and manuring, will sweeten it sufficiently for the reception of the seed.

In Languedoc they sow no corn with it ; and when the Lucern is six or seven inches high, they mow it ; by which all the seeds of annual weeds are cut off and killed.

In Normandy, the climate being much the same as in England, they sow corn with it.

In Picardy, and about Paris, they sow it, some with, others without corn.

At Avignon, when their Lucern begins to decline, they manure their ground and plough afresh, and sow it with corn and

Lucern ; and the old roots growing again with the feed, make another fine crop ; the ploughing will not hurt the old roots.

If you sow a full crop of barley with your Lucern, and your barley grows very strong, your best way is to mow down your barley when it is in the ear.

If you sow forward peas on your new broke up land to prepare it for Lucern, you may in one year perform it, and sow turnips on it as soon as the peas are off ; and the turnips may be fit to feed off by Christmas ; and as soon as the turnips are off, you are to plough the ground, and let it lie fallow till a proper time to stir it again, or give it a Trench ploughing, as before directed.

In hot summers the seed may be sowed in England, but not from the first growth ; that being generally too rank, and subject to rot at bottom.

In Languedoc they save it from the third growth ; but as this climate is colder, it will not have time to ripen, if you do not save it from the second growth.

A dry soil is best to save the seed upon, as it is not so apt to grow rank ; and then it may possibly do from the first growth.

As Lucern, if the land be good whereon it is sown, will bear several crops in one year, as clover generally does ; what I mean by the first, second and third growths, is, the different crops it produces in one summer, which is three, four, and sometimes five mowings, in case you save
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no feed from it ; which if you do, you must, as I said before, save it from the second growth ; the feed will be ripe in September, and must be gathered by hand.

When your plants are one year old, you must, with a large harrow, go over your land as often as is sufficient to root up annual weeds and grass.

The harrow will not hurt the Lucern, the roots of it being very tough ; this must be done in dry weather, before it begins to sprout, which is very early in the spring, that the weeds and grass may die ; and if you see any patches of your ground where the feed miscarried, you may sow a little feed and harrow it : if you give it a dressing, with rotten dung,
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at the same time, it will repay your expences with a larger crop : if the harrow should cut or wound any of the roots, they will sprout and grow notwithstanding.

The second spring, after sowing, it will be proper to plough your ground, where your Lucern grows, with a drill plough, with a round share, without a fin or feather, and without a coulter, to prevent the roots being too much hurt. Let it lie rough a few days to dry and mellow ; then, in fine weather, harrow it down fine, that you may mow it the closer.

One not used to the culture of Lucern, will be ready to think, that the ploughing amongst the Lucern will destroy it ; but I can shew any gentleman, that will

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take the trouble to call at my house, that experience teaches the contrary.

To make hay of Lucern, you must mow it as soon as the bloom appears, or rather sooner : you must not spread it as you do common grafs, but let it lie in the swath as you do clover, and turn it in the same manner ; otherwise the leaves will drop off.

If you let it stand too long before you mow it, the stalks will be too hard for cattle to eat it, and it loses much of its goodness.

The hay is good for all sorts of cattle ; and when you feed horses with it, you must not give them their full allowance of corn ; the Lucern answering, in a great mea-

measure, the purpose of both corn and hay.

It is also the most profitable of any sort of Fodder to feed horses with in the summer, by mowing and giving it to them green.

If the land be good, the produce is incredible ; and according to the goodness and depth of your soil, so will your crops be.

I have seen Lucern mowed five times in a season, yielding, at the five mowings, nearly eight loads of hay *per* acre.

The spring ploughing amongst your Lucern must be annually repeated: it kills the grass and weeds, and makes the ground ferment, which promotes vegetation; and the oftener you refresh it with a little
dung

dung on the surface, the better it will pay for your trouble. If the dung be laid on before the winter, that the salts may be washed in by the rain and snow, and ploughed in, in the spring, it will greatly add to your profit.

As the different sorts of soil may require different methods of tillage, I have subjoined the design of a harrow, with two handles like a plough, which may serve in light land instead of the plough, and will save some labour.

The teeth must be set at seven or eight inches apart in the first row, and about five inches long without the wood. The second row must be placed nine or ten inches behind the first; and so, that the teeth of the second row may be against
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the spaces of the first row ; and they must be an inch longer than those in the first row ; so that the ground, being loosened a little by the first row, the teeth of the second row may go something deeper ; and the teeth of the third and last row, must be an inch longer than those of the second, and placed so as that they may go in the same tract with the teeth of the first row.

The harrow must be made of one solid piece, four or five inches thick, and the lower side must be rounded off towards the hinder part where the teeth are longest ; whereby the person that holds it by the handles, pressing down a little, may force the second and third rows of teeth deeper than the first ; and, by bear-

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ing up a little, he may prevent any but the first row from working. A very little practice will be sufficient to make any one use it as occasion requires; and it will be so steady that no unevenness of the ground will be able to throw it out of its work, as a clod or stone will a common Harrow.

$$\left. \begin{array}{c} \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \\ \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \\ \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{The manner the teeth are} \\ \text{to be placed in.} \end{array}$$

N. B. The foremost row of teeth are placed in a line across near the middle of the block or plank; the other two rows behind that, and the fore part of the harrow should be heavier than the hind part when the weight of the harrow is suspended on the first row of teeth. The teeth

teeth should be pretty strong, and round ; their being square, as usual, may hurt the roots a little, which is to be avoided as much as possible, though it be of very little consequence.

The model of the harrow is to be seen at the author's, and at JOHN ROCQUE's in the STRAND.

F I N I S.

It is not a very strong and
the only point to which it
is a little which is to be noted as
much as possible, though it be of very
little consequence.

The world of the future is to be
a world of peace, and as the
world is to be

W I N I S